IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re application of

Confirmation No. 5484

Teruo MARUYAMA et al.

Docket No. 2004 0220A

Serial No. 10/776,278

Group Art Unit 3753

Filed February 12, 2004

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED

TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DISCHARGING

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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

CLAIM OF PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC 119

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants in the above-entitled application hereby claim the date of priority under the International Convention of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-036434, filed February 14, 2003, as acknowledged in the Declaration of this application.

A certified copy of said Japanese Patent Application is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Teruo MARUYAMA et al.

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